

Pella High School

Principal Newsletter

The mission of the Pella Community Schools is to maximize life's opportunities for every child.



Dear Parents/Guardians:

It has been an interesting start to the school year with construction throughout the building. We hope as the year transpires the office area will be open by Thanksgiving and East Wing will be completed by Spring Break. Once these areas are completed, it will provide a new look and feel to our school climate. The air conditioning has provided a positive climate throughout the building. Even due to these conditions, we are very proud of how the students adjusted to the restrictions.

The students are going to be provided an opportunity to attend an assembly on September 22 to discuss the impact of pornography is having on our children. It will also delve into current issues with technology and teenagers such as sexting, healthy relationships, etc. Aaron Baart is the presenter. He is the Dean of Chapel at Dordt College. This assembly will not be faith based. He will also have an event at Third Reform Church at 7:30 p.m. on the 22nd. To view [flyer click here](#). If you are not comfortable with your child attending this event, please contact Mr. Nelson.

We'd like to remind you that homecoming week is quickly approaching (September 26-30). More information is included in this newsletter in regard to the week's events.

We are looking forward to serving the all of the students Pella Community High School.

Thank you,
Eric Nelson
Principal

Jon Muller
Assistant Principal

Calendar

- Sept. 16 3 week progress report
- Sept. 21 Professional Dev.
90-Minute Early Dismissal
- Sept. 28: PD - PBG Work
- Sept. 30: Homecoming
- Oct. 5: Professional Dev.
90-Minute Early Dismissal
- Oct. 7: 6-Week Grade Progress Report
- Oct. 12: Professional Dev.
90-Minute Early Dismissal

Construction Update:

Bus Loop: The bus loop will be closed from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 on Monday, September 19.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: October 17 -- Open Forum

Parent-Teacher Conferences at the high school will be on Monday, October 17, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. This session will follow a traditional format. All teachers will be located in the cafeteria or West Gym. Athletic coaches will be at the conferences by 5:30 p.m.

During Parent Teacher conferences, the guidance office staff will be available for appointments. If you have questions regarding student needs or concerns; academic or social or post-secondary options; such as college admission requirements, college visits, and college and/or scholarship applications, please schedule a time to meet on October 17th.

[Wade VanVark](#) | [Jessica Manning](#) | [Teresa Thompson](#)

View High School Grades, Attendance, Lunch Payments & Report Cards on Infinite Campus from Home, Work, or your Phone!

Parents and students have individual access to view grades, attendance, assignments online via the Infinite Campus portal. This link also allows parents to print report cards for insurance purposes (under the Reports tab), deposit money for school lunch and other items (under the Payments tab), and update demographic information.

Download the Infinite Campus app from the App Store and use the district ID# of XBJNVW. Enter your Infinite Campus parent portal username and password to log in. This app allows you to view lunch balances, grades, assignments, and student schedules (under Planner). See all your students in one app!

If you have forgotten your Infinite Campus portal username and password, please contact Allissa Grandia at 641-628-9539 or allissa.grandia@pella.k12.ia.us.

High School Office Hours for Teachers

Parents and students will be able to view each teacher's office hours. All teachers are required to have weekly office hours to provide assistance and support for their students. If your son or daughter needs extra assistance in a subject area, please use the teacher for extra assistance. The office hours schedule is: High School Teachers Office Hours

Homecoming 2016

September 26-September 30 – "The Dutch Games"

Week Prior to Homecoming

Thursday - September 15

- Nominate homecoming court candidates. So, Jr, Sr nominate five (5) king and five (5) queen candidates - Google form

Monday - September 19

- Lip Sync tryouts- see Mr Rasmussen
- Class skit plans submitted by class officers to class sponsors and approved, then submitted to administration and approved.
Class Sponsor list

Tuesday - September 20

- Class meetings by student council: see schedule - 30min Homeroom schedule
- Announce Homecoming court (immediately following class meetings in auditorium); voting begins for all students -Google form
- Skit Practice #1 – 5:30-7:30pm (FR-5:30/SO-6:00PM/JR-6:30/SR-7:00PM) – PRACTICE IN AUDITORIUM
- VB @ Norwalk

Thursday, Sept 22

Friday - September 23

- Teachers decorate their doors
- FB - Pella @ Grinnell 7:30pm
- Last day to vote for King/Queen
- Hall decorations by class 3:30-5:30pm. – Class sponsors supervising

Saturday - September 24

- Marching Dutch dress rehearsal 9am-1pm

Homecoming Week - "The Dutch Games"

Monday - September 26

- Teacher doors judged at end of day.
- King and queen coronation/ luncheon for parents/court immediately following. (Coronation Schedule)
- JV/VB Invite @ PC - 5:30pm
- Jungle Volleyball Games @ Pella HS 6:00pm
- Powder Puff Football Game @ Stadium (after Jungle VB) – apx 7:15pm

Tuesday - September 27

- Skit Practice #2 – 5:30-7:30 (FR-5:30/SO-6:00PM/JR-6:30/SR-7:00PM)- PRACTICE IN AUDITORIUM
- Cross Country @ Knoxville 5pm
- VB Pella HOME vs. Newton - 5pm

Wednesday - September 28- 1:45 dismissal schedule

- STAFF DEVT - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday - September 29

- School dismissed at 1:15 -- Class competitions begin at 1:25
- Class competitions 1:25 - 2:05 (Teachers assigned at each event to monitor)
- Class skits and lip sync 2:10 - 3:15 in the auditorium

Friday - September 30

- Green and white day
- HS tailgate on the West lawn.
- Elementary and Middle School pep assemblies for team captains, royalty, forte, and cheerleaders. (Dismissed after 5th hr/12:45)
1:00 Lincoln assembly, 1:30 Madison assembly, 2:00 Jefferson assembly, 2:45 Middle School/High School @ stadium
- Pep Assembly/Spirit Shoe competition: Announce winner of the class competitions-2:45pm
- F/V FB game vs Carlisle @ Pella stadium F/4:45pm, V/7:30pm. Introduce HC court at halftime of the game.
- Homecoming Dance sponsored by the cheerleaders (9-12am) Dance will not begin until FB game is over @ Madison elementary

Homecoming

Homecoming week is the week of September 26 with the football game and dance on September 30. We are looking forward to the week of activity. The homecoming schedule is attached. Parents are welcome to attend any of the homecoming events.

Dress up days:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Underclassmen | Seniors | Teachers |
| Superhero/Villain | Mom/Dad | What I wear when not teaching |
| Celebrity | Toga | Alumni |
| Favorite Holiday | Wacky Tourist | Staff Unity-black w/green P |
| J (Blue), S (Red), F (Pink) | Black (color wars) | White (color wars) |

Upcoming College Planning Events:

- Sunday, September 25th - [Golden Circle College Fair](#) - Hy-Vee Hall (DM)
- Wed/Thurs, Oct 5&6 - ZAPS ACT workshop @ Pella HS (details below)
- Thursday, October 6th - Financial Aid Night (see info below - details in a follow up email soon)
- Thursday, Oct 13th - College Fair @ Central College (more details to follow in email)

If you are interested in more details on the College Fair in DM, please click the [link](#). College Fairs are a great way for families to explore college options for future planning with students. Many different colleges, 2 year community colleges and 4 year colleges, will be in attendance to share information about their institutions. Another College Fair opportunity will occur in Pella at Central College on October 13th. An email will be shared about student registration in the near future.

An ACT workshop is planned at Pella High School for October 5 & 6. An instructor from the ZAPS company will lead students in a classroom setting with tips and strategies for the ACT standardized test. It is encouraged for juniors to take the ACT test in April or June if they are anticipating attending a four year institution. Visit the [Doorway to College](#) website for registration, study tips and stats on the ZAPs workshop benefits. Other ZAPS workshops will be offered in November and March for ACT preparation closer to future testing dates.

The [ACT registration](#) website has all testing dates and deadlines.

Financial Aid is a big topic for families and students when planning for further education. The regulations within the financial aid world had recent changes that now allow families to apply for aid sooner than in the past. It is encouraged that junior and senior parents attend this information session about the FAFSA ([Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#)) online filing process and policies. Please plan to attend on Thursday, October 13th in the PHS Auditorium.

School Calendar

On our district website, there is a school calendar of events for the 2016-17 school year. Events can be sorted by topic and printed. We hope this calendar will be helpful to you and your family. We will not be distributing a traditional hard copy of the school calendar.

Calendar: First Quarter

September

- 16: 3 week progress report
- 21: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 28: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 30: Homecoming

October

- 5: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 7: 6-Week Grade Progress Report
- 12: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 17: Parent Teacher Conference - Open Forum
- 21: No School - P/T Comp. Day
- 26: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 28: End of the 1st Quarter

Calendar: Second Quarter

October

- 31: Day One of Quarter Two

November

- 1: Grades for Quarter One are Due by 9:00 a.m.
- 2: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 9: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 14: Parent Teacher Conferences: Individual Format
- 16: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 23: 90-Minute Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break
- 24 & 25: No School - Thanksgiving Break
- 30: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal

December

- 7: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 9: 6- Week Grade Progress Report
- 14: Professional Development: 90-Minute Early Dismissal
- 22: 90-Minute Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break

23 - Jan 3: No School - Winter Break

January

- 4: School Reconvenes
- 11 & 12: Semester Assessments
- 12: End of Semester One
- 13: No School - Teacher Work Day
- 16: Day One of Second Semester
- 17: Grades for Semester One are Due by 9:00 a.m.

* Go to www.pella.k12.ia.us and click on the calendar tab to see all events/activities. You may also access the calendar by going to www.littlehawkeyeconference.com